Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211359 ORIGIN NEA-10

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 211359

FOR VATICAN OFFICE (SARROS)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, MILI, SY, LE, IS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING WITH THE MARONITE PATRIARCH IN

ROME

REF: STATE 208645

FOLLOWING ARE POINTS YOU SHOULD MAKE AT YOUR MEETING WITH PATRIARCH KHURAYSH, SUPPLEMENTING REFTEL:

-- WE KNOW OF THE PATRIARCH'S EFFORTS FOR MODERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND UNITY IN LEBANON. WE HAD HOPED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. BUT WOULD NOT SUGGEST HE DO SO UNLESS AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT COULD BE ARRANGED. THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF OTHER ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL FILL HIS SCHEDULE UP TO THE CAMP DAVID CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 211359

SUMMIT AND BEYOND. ABSENT THIS TRIP, WE WOULD STILL WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE PATRIARCH'S VIEWS.

-- WE WOULD ESPECIALLY WELCOME A FRANK EXPOSITION OF THE PATRIARCH'S VIEWS ON WHAT MORE THE U.S. CAN DO TO SUPPORT VOICES OF MODERATION AND REASON IN THE MARONITE COMMUNITY. WE ARE WORRIED, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE PATRIARCH SHARES

THIS CONCERN, THAT EXTREMISTS AMONG THE MILITIA LEADERS MAY BE GAINING DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MARONITE COMMUNITY AND LEBANON. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO

REVERSE THIS TREND?

- -- AS THE PATRIARCH UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWS FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER, WE HAVE WORKED HARD WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO END VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT. WE HAVE RAISED WITH SYRIANS THE SYRIAN TACTIC OF MASSIVE SHELLING IN RESPONSE TO MILITIA PROVOCATIONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. RESTRAINT IS ALSO NEEDED, AS THE PATRIARCH WILL AGREE, ON THE PART OF CERTAIN MARONITE MILITIA LEADERS.
- -- ENCOURAGE THE PATRIARCH TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER IN BEIRUT, AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. SOON. VANCE

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